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**CONFIDENTIAL****ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET**

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Request for Approval of Logistics Automated Data System (LADS) III  
Conversion for the Field Computer System (FCS)

FROM:

C/IMSS/OL

EXTENSION

NO.

OL-4039-87

DATE

24 MAR 1987

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Director of Communications  
26 MAR 19872. Director of Logistics  
11/43. DDL  
4/34. EO  
4/3 4/3

The estimated cost of the Field Computer System is:

FY 87	
Development	\$ 95,000
2 each systems	106,542
Grand Total	<u>\$ 361,555</u>

Funding source for FY 87 and FY 88 is the CLAS FAN. I have discussed this with B&F and with DC/IMSS. Paul also concurs in going forward with this project.

Concerning spares program and maintenance costs, C/TLG/OC states that the Office of Communications (OC) will assume funding responsibility when the systems are turned over to OC.

*File all including Rtning Sheet.*

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24 MAR 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

VIA: Director of Communications

FROM: Chief, Information and Management Support  
Staff, OL

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SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Logistics Automated Data  
System (LADS) III Conversion for the Field  
Computer System (FCS).

REFERENCE: LOCS Requirements memo, dtd 18 April 86.

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to request approval for the FY1987 conversion of the Logistics Automated Data System (LADS) III software and the procurement of two Digital Equipment Micro VAX II mini-computers to support the Logistics Field Computer System (FCS) requirements. This acquisition will allow for the development and initial implementation of FCS. In order for FCS to reach full operating capability an additional four mini-computers will have to be purchased in FY1988. The FY1987 software and hardware funding requirement totals \$201,542.00. The FCS system will be deployed at the five Office of Communications (OC) Area Headquarters Logistics facilities. The Office of Logistics (OL) will provide the funding and personnel resources for the development and implementation of the project.

2. The Logistics Automated Data System (LADS) III is an on-line, automated data system designed to monitor inventory from requisition through final disposition. The software was developed by General Electric (GE) for DDS&T/OD&E requirement. LADS III maintains information about stock items, part numbers, serial numbers, quantities on hand, location, receipts, issues, requisitions, procurements, and transaction history records, meeting and surpassing the Field Computer System's (FCS) System Requirements Document (SRD), attachment A.

3. It is requested that the Military & Data System Operation (M&DSO) of General Electric (GE), developers of LADS-III, convert the existing WANG VS100 LADS-III system to a Digital Micro VAX-II for the Field Computer System (FCS), which includes system engineering, software conversion, documentation, and user training.

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OL-4039-87

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SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Logistics Automated Data System (LADS) III Conversion for the Field Computer System (FCS).

4. General Electric proposes to migrate the existing software baseline of LADS III, currently operating on a WANG VS100, to a Digital Micro VAX-II. GE will make the necessary modifications to allow the software to operate in the Micro VAX-II environment and document the software to facilitate future maintenance efforts by Technical Group. GE will perform a system level test and demonstration of LADS III, and upon successful acceptance of the system, will assist Technical Group in the installation and training of the fielded system.

5. This effort will extend over a six month time period and require: one Project Manager, four System Engineers, and one Technical Assistant, at a cost of \$95,000. To help in the conversion effort, the project requires the use of two Digital Micro VAX-II systems to begin their development, one system will be used as a Test Development System and the other for initial deployment in the field.

6. If you have any questions concerning this conversion effort, please contact [redacted] Chief, Technical Group, IMSS/OL. [redacted] can be reached on [redacted]

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## Attachments:

- A. Reference (LOCS Requirements memo)
- B. FCS System Requirements Document, dtd 29 Jan 86
- C. Request for Procurement Services
- D. Requisition for Materiel and/or Services

CONCUR:

[redacted]

03 APR 1987

Director of Communications

Date

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APPROVED:

[redacted]

Director of Logistics

11 April 1987  
Date

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OC-7414-86

18 April 1986

ATTACHMENT  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Data Administration Services, IMSS/OL

FROM:

[REDACTED]  
Chief, Technical and Logistics Group, OC/FND

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25X1SUBJECT: LOCS Requirements [REDACTED]

REFERENCE: Memo To C/OC-FND/TLG from C/OL-IMSS/DAS,  
dtd 31 Oct 85, Same Subject

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1. The referenced memorandum requested the Office of Communications (OC) to formally document known requirements for the Inventory Control (IC) portion of the Logistics Overseas Computer System (LOCS). In response to that request, [REDACTED] from the OC-FND Technical and Logistics Group (TLG) and Ed [REDACTED] from the Office of Logistics Information Management Support Staff (OL/IMSS) have worked together the past few months and have developed some alternative approaches to LOCS as it now exists. Using their respective knowledge of the OC logistics system and ADP systems, they evaluated the results of the test bed installations at our AMCA and EUCA facilities and looked at different approaches to supporting LOCS requirements. This memorandum documents their findings, outlines broad requirements

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25X1nd recommends a redirection of the LOCS effort. [REDACTED]

2. The Inventory Control System (ICS) currently in use throughout the OC logistics network consists of manually posted stock record cards to record the various transactions affecting each item in inventory. This system is highly effective in the day-to-day operations of the Area logistics facilities, however it is labor intensive and provides little, if any, inventory management information. The original intent of LOCS, as it applies to the ICS function, was to provide the OC Area logistics facilities with data processing tools that would reduce their workload through more effective use of time and resources, increase their productivity, provide better data integrity and

25X1nprove inventory management control. [REDACTED]

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25X1 SUBJECT: LOCS Requirements 

3. Several problems surfaced during the system evaluation at both the AMCA and EUCA logistics facilities. The software program was not considered "user friendly" at either facility and it also required excessive (up to four minutes) time to access a file and record a requisition. It was also determined that the use of a single terminal does not provide enough system access time to process all the daily transactions. Based on the most elementary requirements in terms of system flexibility, availability of data, and transaction throughput times, the currently configured LOCS software and hardware does not have adequate performance capabilities. At a minimum, a multiple access capability must be available to accommodate the daily (in excess of 100 transactions) workload volume.

4. Based on the assessment of the current LOCS system and the evaluation of the AMCA and EUCA test beds, Attachment A contains a preliminary revised software proposal that addresses the minimum requirements for an acceptable automated ICS. Along with the revised software proposal is a list of minimal hardware/software features that must be accommodated for LOCS to become successful.

5. The requirements outlined in Attachment A deal only with the ICS portion of the LOCS system. Requirements for a Property Accountability system must also be accommodated. The current LOCS Property Accountability software is probably acceptable with a few minor revisions. The concern (lack of available Agency programming expertise) with this software however, is the same as it is with the ICS. A Personal Computer (PC) version of the existing NOMAD based Property Accountability system used at Headquarters or something similar to the  CRAFT system may be much more acceptable. If a decision is made to keep the existing CONDOR software, George and Ed can work together to make the Property segment accommodate the OC requirements.

6. After the evaluation of the AMCA and EUCA systems and the development of revised software requirements, a preliminary market survey was conducted to determine the cost and availability of multiple user ADP systems. The survey matched several hardware systems with various off-the-shelf software packages. Several options are available, as outlined in Attachment B to this memorandum. As the survey information indicates, the more sophisticated the system, the more expensive it's likely to be both in terms of initial acquisition and in

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25X1 SUBJECT: LOCS Requirements 

overall maintenance costs. In addition to costs, maintenance support (both hardware and software) could become a major issue at some of our overseas facilities. The software maintenance is of particular significance in that there is limited Agency expertise for programming in the current LOCS database management svstem.

7. In addition to the hardware/software problems associated with this project, there are also problems with "computer literacy" at the various areas. In other words, some areas may have personnel who have computer knowledge and/or expertise while other areas may not have any expertise and may prefer to keep their manual records rather than automate. Depending on the sophistication of the system a database administrator, i.e., someone with a computer aptitude and/or expertise may have to be assigned to the OC Area logistics facilities. Further, if LOCS is implemented, consideration should be given to an individual's computer aptitude before some overseas assignments are made. Another major issue having to do with automation is the personnel resources that will be required for data conversion. If an ICS or Property system is to be implemented, an inventory should be taken and the data from the manual file should be converted to the automated system. The data on the automated system should then be verified and the paper file filmed and/or destroyed. This data conversion activity will require a "tiger team" approach to ensure that it is completed in a timely fashion without disruption of day-to-day operations.

8. In addition to the LOCS hardware/software system concerns several security and hardware maintenance issues remain unanswered. The security issues include the use of indigenous personnel to operate LOCS and the use of Agency TEMPEST approved or non-TEMPEST equipment. Maintenance could also become a major issue depending on final hardware selection. These issues must be resolved prior to the full implementation of LOCS.

9. Based on the findings of EUCA and AMCA evaluations, the data collected during the recent hardware/software survey, and the limitations and problems with the current system, there are a number of alternatives to consider before a decision is made on the future of LOCS. These alternatives are outlined below.

a. Status Quo - We can continue with the two current test beds on a more accelerated basis while maintaining the manual systems. The primary disadvantage of this approach is that the existing system is unacceptable and any additional data/experience that can be obtained will be minimal. There are no apparent advantages to this approach.

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25X1 SUBJECT: LOCS Requirements 

b. Stop The Project - This alternative has the advantage of cutting our losses and allowing us to address the issue when the "computer literacy" problem improves and when additional vendor hardware/software improvements are made. The primary disadvantage of this alternative is that more effective ways of managing stock levels and property are needed now and delays of 4-5 years can be more costly in terms of system acquisition/start-up and/or in lost efficiencies through lack of automation.

c. Redirect The Project - This alternative will allow us to pursue a more positive and aggressive approach to a LOCS system. The basis for the redirection is the knowledge gained with the AMCA and EUCA experience and the vendor hardware/software improvements made over the past 2-3 years. The need for a LOCS has been documented by requests from the field as well as through requirements discussions between OC and OL. A redirection can provide a systematic approach for developing and implementing a usable LOCS and can allow for management decisions at key points in the process. The advantage of a redirection is that the momentum for the project can continue and more directed management and user input can help to ensure success. The primary disadvantage of this alternative is the resource implications which includes money for new hardware and software as well as personnel resources for system development and implementation.

25X1 10. It is recommended that the LOCS project be redirected with the following action items used to establish new goals, decision points, and milestones for system implementation.

a. Discontinue any further testing and evaluation of the existing EUCA and AMCA LOCS test bed facilities..

b. Develop a new LOCS project plan based on the following preliminary criteria.

(1) Establish joint OC and OL Project Officers to manage and coordinate project activities.

(2) Hire a contractor/consultant (funded by OC) to work with the OC and OL project personnel to finalize LOCS requirements and to conduct a more extensive evaluation of currently available hardware and software.

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25X1 SUBJECT: LOCS Requirements

(3) The work of the contractor and the OC/OL Project Team should result in a project proposal which includes hardware/software recommendations as well as resource (personnel and funding), security and maintenance implications, and an implementation plan and schedule for the newly proposed LOCS system. At this point management will be required to make decisions on whether or not to continue the project and on which component is responsible for providing the necessary resources.

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11. Management should be aware that if the LOCS Project Team is successful in identifying and/or developing a system that meets our requirements, full implementation of that system will require at least three workstations at each area at an estimated hardware/software cost of \$40-60,000, and that a "tiger team" of up to five individuals will have to be established for data conversion. This "tiger team" will be in existence for up to one year.

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12. The recommendations in this paper have been discussed with the D/CO and he is in agreement. I would also like to schedule a meeting with the D/L as quickly as possible to discuss the recommendations with him. If possible, in addition to you and I,  should attend the D/L briefing. I would welcome your comments on the recommendations prior to the D/L briefing.

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